

including the State of Gujarat in proportion of rural poor in the State to the total poor in the country. This criteria is scientific & realistic and has been approved by the Planning Commission.

No proposal to revise the above criteria is under consideration with the Government at present.

#### Loss Suffered by HCL

293. SHRI RAMBAHADUR SINGH :  
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to close down the non-product and uneconomical copper Mines in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated loss suffered by the Hindustan Copper Limited as a result thereof for the last three years till date; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the situation arising out of the closure of mines ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) The mining operation at Mosaboni mines are highly uneconomical and as Hindustan Copper Limited is incurring heavy losses in operating these mines, the Board of Directors of HCL has in principal approved the proposal for closure of Mosaboni mines and the Company has sought permission from the Government for closure under Section 25 (o) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

Losses suffered by Hindustan Copper Limited in operating the Mosaboni mines during the last three years are given below :

Year	Net loss (Rs. lakhs)
1994-95	2350.67
1995-96	2837.17
1996-97	3458.52

[Translation]

#### Uttar Railway Jaanch Report

294. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister

of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Uttar Railway : Jaanch Report Raddi Ki Tokri Main" appearing in the 'Rastriya Sahara' dated June 24, 1997; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All complaints including the reports published in the newspapers are duly examined/investigated by the competent authority and the remedial action including taking up the staff responsible for causing the complaints is taken. During 1994-95 & 1995-96, 2,407 and 2,252 members of railway staff respectively were taken up. In the specific instance referred to in the newspaper item, the enquiry was promptly conducted by Northern Railway and prima facie, no railway staff was found responsible.

[English]

#### VSNL Investment

295. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. has made some investment in the India Telecom Ltd;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the investment is as per the norms laid down in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the action taken or proposed to be taken against the officials of the VSNL for flouting the existing norms in the regard;

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, VSNL has made a secured advance payment of Rs. 50 cores to Iridium India Telecom. Ltd. for purchase of gateway equipments.

(c) to (e) The matter is being looked into, It is not possible to comment at this stage.

[Translation] -

#### Funds Sought By Rajasthan for Rural Development

296. SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL : Will the

Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Rajasthan has sought additional allocation of funds for completing the rural development schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the additional amount of funds allocated to Rajasthan during year 1995, 1996 and 1997; and

(c) whether the amount allocated during the said period has been in consonance with the demand made by the State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Government released the additional funds on demand of Government of Rajasthan in the following schemes during 1995-96 :-

(i) **Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)**

The demand for additional Central funds amounting to Rs. 792 lakhs was received during 1995-96 and Rs. 215 lakhs during 1996-97. Against this, Central Government has released Rs. 342 lakhs during 1995-96 only to those DRDAs who have fulfilled all conditions laid down for release of additional funds. During 1996-97, no additional fund was released as none of the DRDAs have fulfilled the conditions for release of additional funds.

(ii) **Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY)**

During 1995-96, a proposal for release of additional JRY funds amounting to Rs. 332.16 lakhs for construction of 307 Primary School Buildings under operation 'Block Board' was received from Government of Rajasthan. The said amount i.e. Rs. 332.13 lakhs was released in March, 1996 under JRY as an additional fund.

(iii) **Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM)**

During 1995-96, Rs. 35.50 lakhs were released as on additional funds based on the demand of the State Government of Rajasthan. During 1996-97, no additional funds were released since the DRDAs had not fulfilled conditions for release of funds.

[English]

**PCO Booths in Delhi**

297. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Public Telephone booths functioning as on date in the Capital Delhi;

(b) whether these booths are not functioning smoothly and satisfactorily;

(c) the number of public telephone booths closed down in the capital Delhi during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(e) the loss sustained as a result thereof; and

(f) the concrete steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government for smooth functioning of these booths in Delhi particularly at ISBT/Railway Stations/other public place;

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Number of Public Telephone booths working in Delhi are 32105.

(b) By and large, these PCO Booths are working smoothly and satisfactorily.

(c) 1502 PCOs have been closed during the last three years.

(d) Number of PCOs disconnected	Reasons for disconnection
605	Due to non-payment
197	Due to misuse.
690	On request from PCO frenchises.
10	Due to low revenue.

(e) Nil.

(f) The PCOs are tested regularly and the faults rectified promptly. The field staff check these PCOs during the day for their proper functioning. The senior officers of the department are also checking the functioning of these booths during surprise inspections and routine inspection.